

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, ENRG, TECH, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

1. THE VISIT OF VICE ADMIRAL CASTRO MADERO, PRESIDENT OF CNEA TO LIMA TO ATTEND TO INAUGURATION ON JULY 26 OF THE ZERO POWER REACTOR ARGENTINA PROVIDED TO PERU RECEIVED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE AND COMMENT IN ARGENTINA. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AT EZEIZA AIRPORT BEFORE BOARDING THE PLANE FOR LIMA, CASTRO MADERO INDICATED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN THE WORLD THAT THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY HAS TAKEN PLACE ON A HORIZONTAL LEVEL - I.E. BETWEEN DEVELOPING NATIONS. HE INDICATED THAT ARGENTINA WAS THE LEADER IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD IN LATIN AMERICA AND THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A GRADUAL INTENSIFICATION OF ARGENTINA'S NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS BOLIVIA, URUGUAY AND ECUADOR.

2. THE PERU-ARGENTINA AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSES THE PROVISION OF THE ZERO POWER REACTOR TO BE FOLLOWED UP BY THE INSTALLATION OF A NUCLEAR PLANT HOUSING A 10 MW RESEARCH REACTOR WITHIN THREE AND A HALF YEARS AND A LABORATORY
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FOR RADIOISOTOPES. THIS IS A PACKAGE WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR FINANCING BY THE ARGENTINE CAL (LEGAL DIVISION). THE AGREEMENT ALSO INCLUDES THE TRAINING OF PERUVIAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGISTS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE 10 MW REACTOR. DURING THE FESTIVITIES IN LIMA CASTRO MADERO SAID THAT THIS AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED THE BASIS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE

PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT PURSUE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES TO ARGENTINA.

3. IN A REFERENCE TO CNEA FUTURE OBJECTIVES CASTRO MADERO MENTIONED THAT THE FIRST ARGENTINE NUCLEAR ENGINEERS WILL GRADUATE IN 1981 AND THE EXODUS OF ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS HAS STOPPED. HE INDICATED THAT ARGENTINA IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE SELF SUFFICIENT IN NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ATUCHA I WAS 43 PERCENT, IN EMBALSE ABOUT 50 PERCENT AND IN ATUCHA II IT IS ESTIMATED ABOUT 60 PERCENT. CNEA HOPES TO INCREASE ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION UP TO 90 PERCENT IN FUTURE PROJECTS WHICH HE FEELS IS THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE AT PRESENT. MINISTER SANCHEZ OF PERU ADDED THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL BE USED IN PERU FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, ETC. ACCORDING TO THE NPT AND TREATY OF TLATELOLCO.

COMMENT: THE COMMENT BY CASTRO MADERO CONCERNING THE INAUGURATION OF THE PERU REACTOR IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF MOVES BY CASTRO MADERO AND OTHER CNEA OFFICIALS IN ARGENTINA AND SURROUNDING COUNTRIES TO ENUNCIATE THE NUCLEAR POTENTIAL OF ARGENTINA AND EXPLAIN TO THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC THE BENEFITS OF A STRONG NUCLEAR PROGRAM. FOR EXAMPLE, CASTRO MADERO INAUGURATED THE "DON OTTO" URANIUM DEPOSIT AND CONCENTRATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLANT IN THE TONCO MINING DISTRICT OF SALTA RECENTLY AND ALSO GAVE A LECTURE IN THE ECONOMIC SCIENCES FACULTY IN ROSARIO LAST WEEK. ON BOTH OCCASIONS HE EXPLAINED, IN GREAT DETAIL, THE CNEA NUCLEAR POLICIES AND THE PROGRAM PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. THESE PLANS INCLUDED THE FABRICATION OF ALL OF THE ARGENTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR FUEL ELEMENTS BY 1985; THE OPENING OF THE RIO TERCERO ATOMIC PLANT BY THE END OF 1980; THE INSTALLATION OF AN ELECTROSTATIC ACCELERATOR OF 20 MW FOR RESEARCH AT BARILOCHE AND A DECISION ON THE PLANS FOR A SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT AT ATUCHA BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. CASTRO MADERO HAS ALSO STATED RECENTLY THAT THE ATUCHA II PLANT WOULD BE FOLLOWED UP IN RAPID SUCCESSION BY FURTHER NUCLEAR PLANTS DURING THE 1980'S AND 1990'S. THE FOURTH PLANT WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE RIO NEGRO PROVINCE. DURING OTHER RECENT SPEECHES HE ALSO MENTIONED THE CNEA WAS COOPERATING WITH SPAIN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS USING LEU FOR RESEARCH REACTORS AND ARGENTINA WOULD HAVE THIS TECHNOLOGY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO SAID THE CNEA ENVISIONED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEAVY WATER PLANT NEAR NEUQUEN (RIO NEGRO) IN THE MIDDLE 1980'S

AND WAS COOPERATING WITH ITALY ON ELECTRIC POWER
GENERATION TECHNOLOGY AND NUCLEAR RESEARCH.
CASTRO

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